

**EAST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON DRUG DEMAND
REDUCTION MEETING IN KAMPALA UGANDA ON 4-6TH OF FEBRUARY 2020.**

KAMPALA DECLARATION:

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION SITUATION IN EAST AFRICA

WE, the (*East African Network for Prevention and treatment of Substance Abuse and Alcohol*) the civil organizations working on Drug Demand Reduction, Treatment and recovery from all the East Africa Member states. (*except Rwanda and South Sudan were not able to attend*), Attending the East Africa World Federation Against Drugs Forum on 4th and 6th February 2020 at Nyumbani Hotel in Kampala Uganda to discuss the drug demand reduction, treatment and recovery situation In the region do hereby declare as follows:

WE PLEDGE OUR COMMITMENT to support the work by state parties within the region on Drug Demand Reduction, treatment and recovery based on the 2019 Ministerial Outcome document, UNGASS 2016 outcome document, The African Union Plan of Action (2019 – 2023) and East Africa Community regional Policy on Alcohol.

WE FURTHERMORE REITERATE the need to work with state parties from the region towards promoting a safe and a healthy environment for young people including children, women and people using drugs by providing scientific evidence based drug demand reduction prevention, treatment and recovery programs as per the international standards set by UNODC in educational institutions and within the community set up to manage the psychological disorders brought about by drug abuse among the target population

WE RECOGNIZE the worrying trend of how women and young people and other vulnerable segment of society have been affected by drugs in the region each day, we therefore ask for immediate interventions by state parties within the region to honor their commitment as stated in the 2019 Ministerial Outcome document, UNGASS 2016 outcome document, The African Union Plan of Action (2019 – 2023) and East Africa Community regional Policy on Alcohol.

WE FURTHER RECOGNIZE that Gender based violence cases within the region are in one way or the connected substance use disorders and further ask state parties to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing declaration thus ensuring that women and girls all suffering from substance use disorders together with their immediate families are well take care of and not stigmatized in any way

RECOGNIZING THE NEED to avail ourselves of quality accessible health care to those who have been affected by illicit drugs in the region more so to people living with disability so as to ensure we achieve the 100% goal of leaving no one behind, we suggest increased National budgetary expenditures on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Care issues.

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the good work state parties from the region have promoted towards the protection of the children and young people from drug abuse based on the United Nations Convention on the right of a child article 33 (State parties shall take all appropriate measures including, legislative, administrative social and educational measures to protect children from illicit drugs and to prevent the use of children in production and trafficking) and African Charter on the right and welfare of Children article 28 and East Africa Community Child Policy. We further ask them to recommit their work towards scaling up and supporting interventions that promote this work at all levels with the CSO's from the region.

FURTHER REALIZING that East African countries are signatories to the UN drug control conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 including UNCRC, these Conventions should be respected, upheld and not violated as some governments want to legalize marijuana, state must be mindful of these conventions,

protecting children and avoid listening to legalizers and users points only. State must balance the arguments because of their dangers of Marijuana, the promised medical and profits are not there, it is just and empty promise.

WE ALSO REALIZE that Drug use disorder hinder personal and collective growth, the achievement of quality formal education and the attainment of a working carrier, which could enable young people to contribute to society as a whole and to the general improvement of communities wellbeing. The use of drugs threaten the achievement of Sustainable development goal 2030, especially when they think about developing countries

WE DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE action against any efforts or attempts at legalization and promotion of recreational marijuana within the East Africa community since there is clear evidence on how illegal drugs more so Marijuana has affected the young people in the region.

WE ENCOURAGE state parties within the region to promote a comprehensive dialogue between the civil society and state parties as one way of sharing best practices from the grassroots organizations within the region

On behalf of:

1. Mr. Rogers Kasirye
African Representative (WFAD)

2. Mr. Eze Eluchie Esq
Board Member for Africa (WFAD)

3. Ms. Regina Mattsson
Secretary General (WFAD)

4. George Ochieng Odalo
Executive Director
Slum Child foundation

Countries Present

- Kenya
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Burundi